

The Jews

Why Are They So Hated?

The extreme hatred for the Jewish people is a remarkable phenomenon. It's hard to come up with any logical explanation that makes sense. No other people group on earth has been so hated, but why? They have turned a barren land into a prosperous nation. The Jewish people have excelled in science and technology (consider Einstein and Robert Oppenheimer). They have excelled in sports (Sandy Koufax, Hank Greenberg, Mark Spitz, Sue Bird, etc.).

Of the 965 individual recipients of the Nobel Prize and the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences between 1901 and 2023, at least 214 have been Jews or people with at least one Jewish parent, representing 22% of all recipients. Jews comprise only 0.2% of the world's population, meaning their share of winners is 100 times their proportion of the world's population.

They are essentially a nation of people who want to live peacefully with their neighbors. As someone has rightfully said, "If the Arabs would lay down their weapons there would be peace; if Israel were to lay down their weapons, there would be no more Israel."

If there is no logical or rational explanation for such excessive hatred directed towards the Jews, then it is clear the answer must be found elsewhere. We must look to the spiritual realm for insight. First, we will consider God; second we will consider Satan.

God

The Bible is clear that Israel is God's chosen people: "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you,

and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 7:6-8).

God made it clear to His people that if they would obey Him they would be blessed (Deuteronomy 28:1-14), but if they would disobey Him, they would be cursed (Deuteronomy 28:15). The curses are enumerated in Deuteronomy 28:16-68. The curses upon God’s people were severe because “to whom much is given, much is required.” The curses included scorn and maltreatment by other peoples and other nations: “The LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other...and among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart and failing of eyes and sorrow of mind....And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whether the LORD shall lead thee” (Deuteronomy 28:64-65,37). Obviously, these predictions were literally fulfilled.

After two devastating captivities (the Assyrian Captivity for the northern kingdom of Israel; the Babylonian Captivity for the southern kingdom of Judah), the Jews were allowed by the Persians to go back to their land and rebuild their temple. A few centuries later God did the greatest thing possible for His people Israel. He sent them a Savior, their Messiah: “For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ [Messiah] the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

What did the Jewish people do with their promised Messiah? They committed the greatest act of disobedience in their history! They rejected the One whom God sent to be their Saviour (John 1:11) and they crucified Him (Acts 2:22-23). In addition, they claimed full responsibility for what they had done: Pilate said to the Jews: “I am innocent of the blood of this righteous Person: see ye to it.” The Jewish people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children” (Matthew 27:24-25). Pilate would have released Jesus but the Jews shouted for His death and chose to release a murderer (Barabbas) instead (Matthew 27:26).

In light of these facts, Israel, as a people, must bear a certain amount of responsibility for what happened to them during the next 2000 years.

The good news is that God has told us in the Bible that in the future Israel will repent of their sins and will embrace Christ as their Messiah and Savior, and God will bless them and bring about their promised Kingdom as Jesus Christ will reign over the earth from Jerusalem. Study Deuteronomy 4:27-31; Zechariah 12:10-14; Matthew 23:37-39; Isaiah 2:1-5.

Satan

The name “Satan” means “adversary, enemy.” Satan is God’s enemy, and he opposes God’s purposes, although ultimately he will find his doom (Revelation 20:10; Matthew 25:41). The Bible teaches that those who are not believers in Jesus Christ are children of the devil (John 8:44; 1 John 3:10). Unsaved people are under the dominion of Satan and energized by him (Ephesians 2:1-2).

Satan hates God’s people, whether it be Israel or believers in Christ (true Christians). Satan’s hatred of the Jews is seen by his attempts to destroy the entire nation as in the days of Pharaoh, and in the time of the Persian kingdom (in the days of Esther and King Xerxes) when Haman almost succeeded in wiping out the nation. When Christ was born, Satan through King Herod tried unsuccessfully to destroy Him. Satan hates Christ and he hates those who belong to Christ.

Thus, the illogical and irrational hatred of the Jews can be explained in the spiritual realm as we understand Satan and the spiritual battles that are taking place.

Satan Uses Religion

Satan loves to use religion to accomplish his purposes. Let me share two ways that Satan has used religion to foster hatred for the Jewish people.

1) So-Called Christianity

Not everything labeled as “Christian” represents true Christianity. For example, Christ never would have approved of the “Christian Crusades” in which not only Muslims, but many Jews were killed.

From the very beginning, the so-called Christian church embraced what has been called "Replacement Theology." Replacement Theology insists that Israel has no future in the plan of God. Proponents of this view teach that God has cast off those whom He once claimed as His chosen people. Replacement Theology says that the chosen people of Israel have been replaced by the Church. They claim that Israel forfeited the right to be the people of God when they rejected and crucified Christ. Because the Jews rejected God; God has rejected them. They teach that God is forever finished with the nation Israel. Today God has a "new Israel" which is the Church, which they refer to as "the Israel of God." The Church inherits all the blessings that were promised to Israel, but of course, Israel will still receive the curses that were promised to them.

Replacement Theology has plagued the Church from the beginning. Instead of having a love for the Jewish people as the Bible teaches (Romans 9:1-5; Romans 10:1), many so-called Christians referred to Jews as "Christ-killers," etc. Actually we all had a part in killing Christ, because it was for our sins that He suffered, bled and died (1 Peter 2:24).

The things Martin Luther said about the Jews is a sad chapter in Church history. Luther did a lot of good for the Church, uncovering important Bible truths about justification and other key doctrines. Sadly, however, he said some terrible things about the Jews, especially later in life. Initially Luther had a love for the Jews but later turned in hate against them when the Jews refused to convert to Christianity.

Luther went so far as to say that the Jews should be removed from Christian lands, their books should be outlawed, their synagogues burned and even their houses destroyed. In the last of his sermons, preached shortly before his death, he concluded with a severe warning against the Jews as dangerous public enemies who ought not to be tolerated, and said the alternatives were either conversion or expulsion.

At another time Luther said this: "I would threaten to cut their tongues out from their throats, if they refuse to acknowledge the truth that God is a trinity and not a plain unity." What a horrible statement!

About four centuries later Hitler justified his treatment of the Jews by appealing to the words of Martin Luther. At a Christian gathering in Berlin, Hitler talked about the influence of Luther on his life:

Martin Luther has been the greatest encouragement of my life. Luther was a great man. He was a giant. With one blow he heralded the coming of the new dawn and the new age. He saw clearly that the Jews need to be destroyed, and we're only beginning to see that we need to carry this work on.

At the Nuremberg trials, Nazi propagandist Julius Streicher defended himself with the claim that he had not said anything worse about the Jews than had Martin Luther.

2) Islam

Another masterpiece of Satan is the religion of Islam. About 22% of the people in the world are Muslims. While not all Muslims hate the Jews, those who strictly follow their religious founding documents are taught to hate the Jews. Israel is considered by many Muslims to be "the little Satan" (the United States being "the great Satan"). Even the recent horrific attack by Hamas against the Jews (10/7/23) was done in the name of Allah, and these brutal murders of about 1200 people, including children and babies and women, were considered to be righteous religious acts.

The Bible anticipated the conflict between Israel and the Arabs, tracing the origin of this enmity to Abraham (the father of the Jews) and Ishmael (the father of the Arabs). These two families have been in conflict since the very beginning.

Conclusion

Why are the Jews so hated all around the world? Why is antisemitism so rampant in every place? It is difficult to come up with a sane answer to this if we fail to consider the spiritual realities of God's judgment upon His disobedient people and Satan's animosity against God's chosen nation. Satan uses religion as a tool in his attacks against the Jews, as illustrated by so-called Christianity (Replacement Theology) and Islam.

Thankfully, the final outlook for the Jewish nation is positive. Many prophecies in Scripture tell of Israel living in their land in safety and in peace during the worldwide future reign of their Messiah King, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider this promise by God:

“And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul. For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.” (Jeremiah 32:40-42)

Amazing Quote by Mark Twain

Mark Twain wrote about the Jews in *Harper's Magazine* in 1899. This was 11 years before he died and 49 years before Israel became a nation. Here is what he said:

If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of stardust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk.

His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and obtuse learning are also way out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world in all the ages and has done it with his hands tied behind him.

The Egyptians, the Babylonians and the Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, and faded to dream stuff and passed away. The Greeks and the Romans followed and made a vast noise and they are gone.

Other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time. But it burned out, and they sit in twilight now or have vanished.

The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew. All other forces pass, but he remains. (Mark Twain)

George Zeller

Middletown Bible Church

www.middletownbiblechurch.org

12/5/23